

The SOUTHEAST NEWS

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

Volume 2 - Number 2

NOVEMBER, 1953



Tifton Preaching Mission and Workers Conference

Dr. Wofford C. Timmons, of the National Department of Evangelism, was the leader of a Preaching Mission held in our new church in Tifton, Ga., the week of October 11-16. Each morning Dr. Timmons conducted a radio program entitled "What's On Your Mind," featuring a well prepared devotional service and answers to religious questions sent in by listeners. This program has been well publicized and from all reports was well received.

At eleven o'clock he conducted a combination worship, training and study session, and each evening held the formal services of the Preaching mission, affording a splendid opportunity for both interpretation and inspiration. Attendance ranged from 57 to 102.

On Thursday, Oct. 15, representatives from Tifton, Douglas, Vanceville, Enigma, Pearson and Richland churches attended a worker's conference which began with a banquet session at the Alpine Restaurant and continued through the evening service, concluding with a round-table discussion led by Dr. Timmons and the local pastor, the Rev. Ralph Worley. Dr. Timmons said that he felt this was perhaps the most effective phase of his mission.

The 47 people who attended the workers' conference were most happy they came and we all express our thanks to Dr. Timmons for coming to the Southeast Convention. Come back soon and help us grow!

Women's Fellowship

The planning session of the presidents of women's fellowships of the conferences and associations of the Southeast Convention met in Atlanta Sept. 28-29 with Mrs. Ellis Hemingway, former president of the National Women's Fellowship and now director of promotion for **Advance**.

Mrs. T. L. Cunningham, Convention President, was unable to be present and a letter of resignation from her was read and accepted by the group. Mrs. Cunningham, since her election in May, has worked faithfully in organizing and correlating the work of the women on the Convention level. She has resigned on the advice of her physician, who felt that she should curtail her activities for an indefinite period.

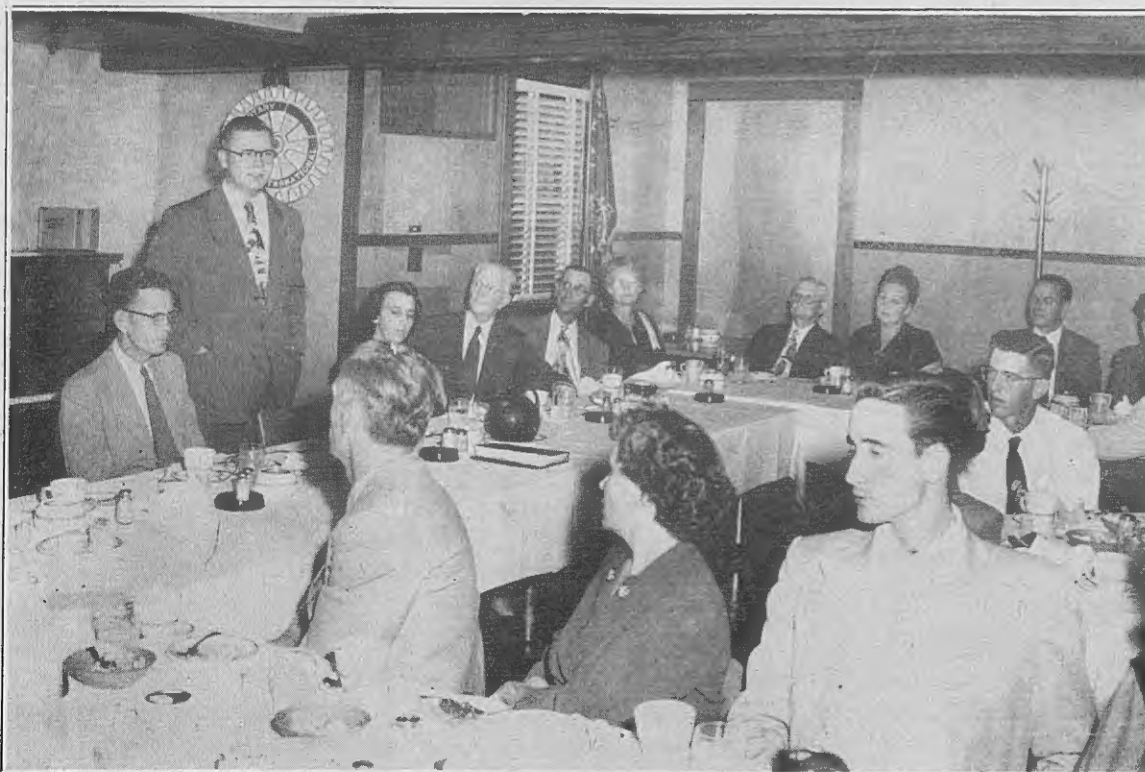
On recommendation of the group, Mrs. D. W. Shepherd was elected temporary Chairman. The group voted that since it is imperative that the Convention President work closely with the Board of Directors, and since they did not feel qualified to appoint a successor to Mrs. Cunningham, it would be wise for the Board to appoint a successor to serve until the next meeting of the Convention next May.

Mrs. Slater, reporting for the 12 churches of Kentucky-Tennessee, said there are 8 actively participating in the women's work.

In Georgia there are 32 women's societies in the 37 churches of the Conference, according to Mrs. Doherty.

Mrs. Fralic reported 36 active women's groups in the 71 churches of the Alabama Conference.

(Please turn to page 14)



At the banquet table, below, left to right: The Rev. Ralph Worley, Supt. Butterfield, Mrs. Worley, Dr. Wofford C. Timmons, J. P. Veasey and Mrs. Veasey.

Men Go to School and Like It

Ninety laymen from 19 churches of the Southeast Convention participated in a School of Churchmanship Sunday, Oct. 11 at Southern Union College.

Sponsored by the East Alabama-West Georgia Laymen's Fellowship, with Odell Yancey presiding, the meeting began with a thrilling song session led by Howard Morris. Introductions followed and we were very happy to have a large number of ministers with us in the school, as well as laymen from Pilgrim Church, Birmingham; Center Church, Atlanta; and Mt. Olive Church, Tallassee. The presidents of the various state conference fellowships and the Executive Committee of the Convention Fellowship were all present. Our special guest was Walter Graham, National Director of Laymen's work.

A brief devotional was given by Herman Cook, followed by a forum on the duties of the officers of Laymen's Fellowship Clubs. Leaders were Walter Crutchfield, James Dollar and Walter Graham. Seminars on the duties of Deacons, Trustees, and Finance Committees were led by the Rev. David Shepherd, Winfred Walters, the Rev. John Pickens, the Rev. Joe French and Tom Crenshaw. Participation in the seminars by the laymen was good. New understanding and new interest was developed and will be of help to our churches.

The group quickly voted that we must have another school next year—several men commented they wished it possible to attend all the seminars. In fact, this spirit prevailed throughout the meeting.

The evening session in the College Chapel began with worship services conducted by a group of the students; then our national director, Walter Graham, gave a most challenging message. He very pointedly assured us that "Christ Calls Men" and that there are many areas of life in which men could answer the call. The problems of the refugees of our world was better understood by all present as Mr. Graham in his closing remarks shared some of his experiences of a recent European trip with us.

Southern Union College was an excellent host for the meeting. Our thanks to President Clyde Flannery and the faculty.

Another advance in building for Christ in our Southeast Convention.

Herman Cook

A Prayer for Armistice Day

God of Justice, make us just in mind and spirit, that the kingdoms of the world may become the Kingdom of Justice. We pray not for a peace of ease, but for the peace of righteousness and good will, and the moral love that fulfills itself in fellowship. Comfort thou thy people; guide our grouping humanity out of chaos in brotherhood. Enlighten our darkness; let ignorance, oppression and envy cease; and heaven and earth be joined in praise of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

—Joseph Fort Newton

Golden Anniversary of North Highland Church

Sunday, Oct. 11, was a big day for the Rev. and Mrs. Peter Doherty and their congregation at North Highlands Church, Columbus, Ga. A large crowd gathered to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the church.

The Rev. H. W. Elder was the founder and first pastor, beginning the church in 1903 with a charter membership of 18, six of whom are still living.

Superintendent Erston M. Butterfield preached the morning sermon and the Rev. Olin Sheppard presented the meditation of the afternoon. Special music was furnished for both services by Junior and Senior Choirs of the church.

During the services the mortgage on the new fellowship hall was burned, Mr. R. L. Howell presiding, and announcement was made that the congregation had contracted to buy the home in which the church began as a parsonage.

As part of the morning worship, six of the long time members were honored. Below is their picture, standing with the Rev. and Mrs. Doherty.

The prayers and best wishes of the entire Convention are with the pastor and people of North Highlands as they enter their second half century of service.



(Left to right) front row: Mrs. Mollie Fincher, charter member, 1903; Mrs. Jaruth Graham, 1919; Mrs. Annie Duke, 1905; Mrs. Myrtic Howell, 1911. Back row: Mrs. Bertha Cole, 1904; Mrs. Peter Doherty; Rev. Peter Doherty; Mrs. J. H. Stuart, 1907.

DR. JAMES A. FRASER TO SERVE VALPARAISO COMMUNITY CHURCH

Dr. James A. Fraser, who has been serving the Fredonia Church in Barnesville, Ga., has accepted a call to the Community Church in Valparaiso, Fla. Dr. and Mrs. Fraser will be moving to Valparaiso some time in December, the date to be announced later.

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

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NOVEMBER, 1953

Our Grateful Thanks

A number of our subscribers have been sending in their renewals to subscriptions, and we have also received some new additions to our list. Our total is now 550!

We greatly appreciate this expression of co-operation and interest in the magazine, and will endeavor to make it better and better as the months go by . . . with your help in sending in news items we can do this. We were very happy that the news from the churches this issue took three pages, and we hope this will continue, and even increase to four pages! Do take time to write us about your plans, your projects, the new officers. Perhaps you will inspire some other church congregation to make plans of progress also.

And we need some more "Meditations" from the ministers.

—The Staff

Church Membership and Human Value

Church membership differs from other positions in this respect, that one cannot be a good church member without being good in other things. A person cannot be a good church member and not good for anything else. It is a more inclusive position than membership in other things. This position includes the whole man and all of his relations. A good church member will be a good son, daughter, husband, wife, father, mother, neighbor, citizen, debtor, creditor; in fact good in every relation of life. One cannot be a good church member without being good in all other human relations.

There is no other organization that tests all human values as the church does. It is the only organization in which human values are put to the severest test, and that is the reason why church members are watched and criticized so much by outsiders. They unconsciously recognize the importance of church members being good members.

The Pilgrims

Our Thanksgiving cover picture is most appropriate—how many of you realize that the Pilgrims, our forefathers, who so courageously made the perilous trip to this new land and lived through the hard winter without adequate food—not daring to mark the graves of their dead lest the hostile Indians lurking in the woods should know how few they were—these Pilgrims, were **Congregationalists!**

Congregationalism began in England as meetings of little groups, led by some minister or another who sought a better "way" than the established church. (Churches still begin that way!) Their meetings were contrary to law and they were subject to imprisonment, exile or even death. In seeking another country where they might worship God as they pleased, they first chose Holland, where other groups had gone. In 1609 when they sought to leave they were harried, cheated, many of the women were left behind. Two men sustained them—John Robinson, the wisest of pastors, and William Brewster, the wisest of laymen. They got to Holland and founded the "Ancient Church" in Amsterdam. Then they moved to Leyden and for 12 years lived in peace. But Leyden was not their desired haven. They were Englishmen who loved the country which persecuted them. Their children, they thought, would soon cease to be English. They would seek a further beginning in the new world. In 1620 their historic sailing from Plymouth, England, in the Mayflower with its cargo of undreamt of future and 102 brave and adventurous persons, began.

They were at sea over two months, storm-tossed imperiled, uncomfortable beyond description. They landed at Cape Cod, and drew up the "Association and Agreement" famous in history as the Mayflower Compact. It was and is a Congregational covenant drawn by a great social and religious philosophy to meet a great occasion with the directness of freedom and the wisdom of discipline. William Brewster, lay preacher, was still with them, and they founded the first Congregational Church.

Thanksgiving to them meant thanks to God for the living, for the bountiful harvest which would see them through the coming winter, for the church where they could worship as they pleased, for the right to live and love and bring up their children in their own way. Congregationalism and Americanism has a great deal in common, and that is not surprising since our Declaration of Independence was drawn up and signed by a group of men who had come to the new world for the same reasons—and several of them were Congregationalists. In fact, two signers were from the Midway Church in Georgia.

Their first "missionaries" worked among the Indians, to extend to them the message of the gospel. They wanted an educated ministry, so they eventually founded Yale.

Let us think of these brave ancestors as we give thanks for our blessings on Thanksgiving Day, 1953.

MGA

— SUPERINTENDENT'S PAGE —

Let Us Give Thanks

You'll never guess where I am as I write my monthly column! I'm sitting in the Airlines Terminal Building in New York City where I arrived at six o'clock this morning! I'm here to meet with the Staff of the Division of Church Extension and Evangelism to discuss a "Program of Progress" for the Southeast Convention.

I'm sorry that it was impossible to stay through the Georgia Conference Meeting, for it was a great occasion with 154 people registered and almost every church represented!

This month, please take a trip with me on Sunday, Oct. 18. We leave the parsonage in Atlanta at 7:30 A.M. heading out route 85 and turning off at Gay to go west through Chipley to West Point, Ga., on the Chattahoochee River. When we hit the city we turn right and drive about two miles to the Bethel Congregational Christian Church. Bethel is one of our younger churches which came into the fellowship in 1948 under the leadership of the Rev. John Dollar. Now they have a nice stone block sanctuary, but a few years ago the church had its beginning in an old home building which had been the worst "dive" and beer garden around West Point before the community bought the property and turned it into a church.

But let's get to the point. When we arrive the Rev. and Mrs. Lynwood Hubbard and a large crowd are on hand to greet us. Soon church school begins. There are 100 on the roll and 102 in attendance! The place is packed! Below are two pictures, one showing the adult class, which shares the sanctuary with two youth classes; the other of all the children packed in the two Sunday School rooms and the pulpit platform. This is undoubtedly one of our fastest growing churches.

But wait, there's more. After the worship service we share in a fellowship meal in the yard, using piles of cement blocks for tables. You guessed it—Bethel too is beginning a building



BETHEL ADULT CLASS

program to more adequately care for the congregation, which has trebled in the last six months! And when they get the educational unit up they will begin on the parsonage. That's real progress!

Unfortunately, we can't stay as long as we'd like because we have promised to arrive at our next appointment at four p.m. So, we jump in the little blue Dodge and head east to Central Georgia and our church in Fort Valley. We arrive right on the dot and find the Rev. and Mrs. Frank C. Barner and the crowd of folks pictured waiting. No, we are not to have a formal service this afternoon—these are just the folks who came to welcome us.

After chatting a while we all go out to Radio Station WFPM (1150 KC) over which the church

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WEST POINT BETHEL CHILDREN



FORT VALLEY WELCOME

Southern Union College



FACULTY OF SOUTHERN UNION COLLEGE

(left to right) top row: Dean A. R. Van Cleave and Treasurer David Eddy. Middle row: Mrs. A. R. Van Cleave, Miss Vera Van Cleave, Mr. and Mrs. Carl J. Landes, Dr. and Mrs. W. E. N. Eggink. Bottom row: Mr. and Mrs. Simon Nath, Mrs. Alberta Phillips, President; and Mrs. Clyde C. Flannery, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Patterson. Not present—Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Bennett and Clarence H. Stewart.

Southern Union began its 31st college year September 21 with not only high hopes but genuine encouragement. Student enrollment is up from last year, and there is a fine representation from our own Congregational Christian fellowship. Several notable additions to the Faculty also give promise of a good year ahead.

Enrollment of regular students for the Fall quarter is 87. Of this number, 15 are resident students in Kimball and Men's halls. Small as the group of boarders is, they are active enough to have initiated a full program of extra-curricular activities on the campus.

The Congregational Christian students enrolled include: (* indicates student minister) Robert Anderson, Charles Bell*, Kerwin Carson, Lynwood Hubbard*, Harmon Kirby, Edward Knight*, Agnes Kulugian, William Mitchum, Jack Powell, Richard Rider*, Donald Ross*, Thomas Ward, and Patricia Wynn.

Perhaps because they are used to living on a small salary, there are five Congregational ministers on Southern Union's faculty and staff this year. The new members of the faculty are as follows:

Mr. Herman Patterson is in charge of the Commercial Science Department. He is a graduate of Berea College and is now working on his Master's Degree at the University of Kentucky.

Mrs. Maxine Patterson, also a graduate of Berea, is teaching English. The Pattersons were active members in the Community Cong'l Church of Evarts, Ky.

Mr. Carl J. Landes, recently of Deer Creek, Okla., is professor of History and director of student labor program. He is a graduate of Bluffton College and Temple University, and is serving a nearby church, Bethel, of Ashland, Ala.

Mr. W. Engelbert M. Eggink is teaching Literature. He is a graduate of Marnix Gymnasium, Rotterdam, Groningen and Leiden Universities, the Netherlands. For 18 years a minister of the Dutch Reformed Church, he is serving several Presbyterian churches in Alabama.

Mr. Simon Nath, a graduate of M.I.T., is teaching Chemistry and Biology.

Mrs. Simon Nath is a nurse and besides overseeing Men's Hall is helping in the Thrift Shop.

Mr. Clarence H. Stewart is teaching Bible and English, and supervising Planned Recreation. He will also be contacting prospective students. A graduate of Birmingham Southern, University of Alabama, and Vanderbilt University, he has recently been serving Coldwater Church of Andalusia, Ala.

After a busy summer, including the arrival of a new daughter, Jenifer Ellen on September 1, President Flannery left October 8 to spend the remainder of the month in New England on behalf of the college. After a brief reunion with his family, he will be in the Chicago area much of November.

On Sunday, October 11 the College was host to a very well attended School of Churchmanship for Laymen. Sponsored by the Laymen's Fellowship of East Alabama and West Georgia, the stimulating program was climaxed by an address by Mr. Walter Graham, national secretary for Congregational Christian laymen.

Course of Study

Dr. A. R. Van Cleave and Professors C. E. Bennett, Clarence Stewart and Carl Landes are working in close cooperation with Dr. Anderson and his Convention Committee on the Ministry in developing the new Course of Study which will be available about the last of November.

This course will be mainly a correspondence course for in-service training of ministers. There will be two one-week sessions on the campus (one in the fall and one in the spring) for discussion and classroom work on the development of techniques and methods, homiletics, church administration, etc.—this part of ministerial study not being adapted to correspondence nor to be gained very well from reading books.

—David Eddy, Treasurer

The Rev. C. Carl Dollar, Director of the Christian Rural Extension Service, and the Rev. Charles W. Bell attended the National Convocation on the Church in Town and Country, held Oct. 27-29 in Saint Paul, Minn., under the auspices of the Dept. of the Town and Country Church. Watch for their report of this meeting in the next issue of the *Southeast News*.

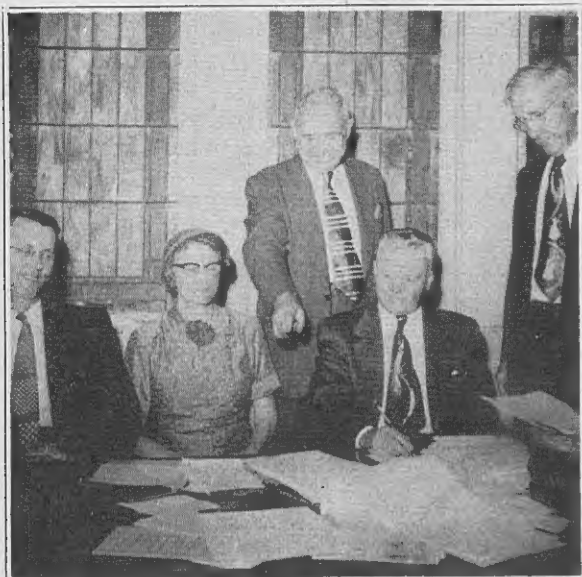
A grateful heart, filled with
THANKSGIVING
 is a nobler thing than all mere outward worship.

East Alabama Association Meeting

All but three of the 35 churches in the East Alabama Association were represented at the first session held in the old Lanett Church on Wednesday, October 14.

Visiting dignitaries who shared in the program were: Mr. Walter Graham, Director of the National Laymen's Fellowship; the Rev. Ernest J. Arnold, Director of the Southeastern Area of the National Council of Churches; and the Rev. Allyn K. Wadleigh, pastor of our Pilgrim Church, Birmingham, Ala.

During the business sessions a new Constitution was adopted, bringing East Alabama in step with the new organization of the Convention, and officers were elected.



(Left to right) Luke Huey, Asst. Treas.; Mrs. Velma French, Treasurer; the Rev. Joe A. French, Moderator; Paul Beaird, Secretary; and Dr. A. R. Van Cleave, who acted as Chaplain. Rev. Charles W. Bell (not pictured) was elected Associate Moderator.

My Prayer

Dear Lord

The last minister's wife—so I am told—
Was a woman most beautiful to behold,
With a voice like a songbird she led the choir
Dressed in the most fashionable attire.
Whenever the parishioners made a request
She tackled the problem with relish and zest.
I'm sure the angels look down on her life
And say, "She's an excellent minister's wife."
I'm sorry 'tis I who takes the place
Of a woman so talented, with so much grace.
I have so little to offer "Thy sheep."
My gifts are small, but my love is deep,
And whenever someone makes a request
With a prayer in my heart, I'll do my best;
Hoping that someone finds "Thee" in my life
And calls me an excellent minister's wife.
Amen.

Tessie P. Hill, Oakland, Calif.

E. Tallassee Women's Fellowship



THREE PRESIDENTS

The East Tallassee Church women are proud to have three women's fellowship presidents from the same family—daughters and granddaughter of Mrs. James I. Barker and the late Rev. Barker of Tallassee, Ala. Pictured above, L to R, are Mrs. John Fralic, President of Central Alabama Women; Mrs. G. F. Logan, past president of Alabama Women; and Mrs. Murry Baker, President of East Tallassee Women.

The out-going and in-coming officers of the East Tallassee Women's Fellowship, below, L to R Back Row: Mrs. Chas. Messer, past Treasurer; Miss Christine Durden, past V. President; Mrs. Wilma Pemberton, past President; Mrs. Robt. Scroggins, new Secretary; Mrs. Gene Schnell, new Friendly Service Chairman. Front row: Miss Willa Durden, new Treasurer; Mrs. Murray Baker, new President; Mrs. Floyd Ballard, past F.S.C. and new Vice President.

Red carnations symbolize "out-going" officers and white carnations the new officers.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION and YOUTH WORK

By John E. Pickens, Jr.

You've heard the old saying, "everyone talks about the weather, but no one seems to do anything about it." The same was true for Christian education and youth work in our Southeast Convention. But I am happy to say that your committee on Christian Education and Youth Work is on the ball and things are beginning to roll. A short time ago our committee held a two-day meeting in Atlanta at which time we made much headway. I will bring to your attention some of the helps that we would like you to have.

Did you know that you can help in many ways for your church school just by asking for it? Our committee has been doing a lot in the past few weeks in helping small schools get a good start on their fall programs. As chairman of this committee, I have been trying to help out in any church that needs and wants this assistance. In the past two months I have had the privilege of visiting with 28 church schools and have tried to help them with the problems that come to all of us. I am sure you are acquainted with the latest helps for your program of training for teachers in your church. It is really wonderful. Religious leaders of 18 denominations working together have prepared materials for teacher training, consisting of a kit of ten lessons dealing with all phases of leadership. Each lesson is presented through a film strip, guide book and records which do a wonderful job of opening the discussions on your local problems in a most interesting and helpful way. This can be had by writing to me and I will be most happy to help out. (Rev. John E. Pickens, 303 Dallas Street, LaGrange, Ga.)

Did you know also that we are getting together and are making plans for an intensive leadership training school to begin soon? This series of schools will be held at local churches in different ways and times. If you would like to have one in your church or your locality, please write me and tell me about it. We will have the honor of having Miss Widbur, of the Division of Christian Education, for five weeks and we sure want to put her to work—so how about discussing this with your church and letting me know at once if you would like to have her?

Goal for the Church School

Would you like a few suggestions from our committee that might help you and your church school? Do you have a monthly officers and teachers meeting? A time when you can sit down with your minister and superintendent and receive help with lesson preparation. It will do you good. The minister might give you the Bible background and the S.S. superintendent may give some helpful ways of bringing this material to the students of your class. You might even try a few practice teaching sessions using the other teachers and officers as students. This is good for all, and I assure you will prove a fine improvement in your church school.

I would like to suggest also that each church

school take for itself a good set of standards or goals for the Sunday School and try to put these goals to work in the church year. Our committee has a dandy set for you and we would like to see every church in the Southeast Convention take hold and try them.

1. That every teacher spend at least one hour weekly in preparation for the class session. A good teacher will look over the lessons ahead and will know how this week's lesson will lead on into next week's. Also, teacher will be collecting ideas from all sources available.

2. That every teacher should call in the homes of each pupil at least once a year. This will help that teacher to know her pupil's home background and thus help to understand that pupil much better. A good teacher will also want to help the parents teach the pupil religion in the home.

3. The Sunday School should begin promptly with all officers and teachers present at least ten minutes ahead of time. A good teacher will use this time to have her room in readiness, get acquainted with new pupils and listen to problems of the old ones. A good superintendent will have the room and himself in readiness for worship. **REMEMBER WORSHIP CANNOT BE JUMPED INTO.**

4. That your Sunday School should have a well planned worship service rather than opening exercises. Where it is possible worship services should be planned for the various age groups. It would be a good idea if the older boys and girls could be encouraged to help plan and conduct the worship service. This could be done by classes or by using different ones at different times.

Some good helpful material would be **The Program Manual and Children Religion** (Pilgrim Press), **The International Journal of Religious Education** (79 East Adams Street, Chicago, Ill.)

5. The Church and the church school rooms should be clean and neat. A cluttered piano and handbags on the communion table, crayons on the floor, and a cold room are far from a worshipful church. These things are most important.

6. Try to have a separate class for the pre-school children. The early years of a child are the most important for making lasting impressions and should be receiving the special attention of your church school.

7. It is most important to have separate classes for young people and adults. This is most necessary as the interests are so much different. Think back a little and remember how you as a young person enjoyed being in the Bible class with grandmother or dad. Times have not changed in that field. Even if this means having a class of two or three, do so. Make the few feel important and you will help to build the class.

8. Have your church school give support to your church and the field of Missions. Every child in your school should feel himself a part of the church. One can do big things for something he

is a part of. Let them know that this is OUR church.

9. Try to make the best use of your present space and plan to provide more adequate room to suit your growing needs. Write this committee about your needs and we can help you in many ways. Or write to 287 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y. for these articles by John R. Scotford: "Improving the Town and Country Church," and "Enlarging the One Room Church."

10. How about letting this committee know what you are doing in your church school? I would love to hear from you telling me just what you like to do with your church school and how you accomplish it. How about it? Let's exchange ideas, for the benefit of all.

I hope each of you will read this goal carefully and then remind your pastor and your church school superintendent to read them. Give them a few days to think it over, and then ask why you cannot do this in your church. You can, believe me, you can. If you need our help, we stand ready to do all we can. Our business is to see that you receive all the help and tools needed to conduct a good church school.

Pilgrim Fellowship

If there's anything these days Christians ought to be clear about, it's knowing who they are, where they came from, what they stand for, and where they're going. Because that's so, we're beginning this brief guide with some simple answers to these simple questions:

Who are we, anyhow? We are the young people who have taken a stand for Jesus Christ, who recognize His claim upon our lives. Remember what Jesus said once, "Ye did not choose me, but I chose you . . . follow me. You are my Witnesses." Yes, we are; particularly these young people between 12 and 24 years of age who are a large part of the Congregational Christian Churches. We are then members of a world-wide community, the Church of Christ, of which every denomination is only one part. We are the Church of tomorrow!—learning our roles today in the life and work of a free and disciplined fellowship. Yes, that is you and I, Our Pilgrim Fellowship.

How are you doing in your local church with your YOUTH program? I hope that you are doing well. I have had the honor of meeting a good number of our young people this summer and let me tell you, they come no better from anywhere. Can I give you a few suggestions to help you? Any program needs new things added in order to enrich the spirit of it. Try to change the program often so your young people are not getting the same type of meeting. Try a "Favorite Hymn Night" in which you ask the young folk in your society to hand in the names of favorite hymns. Have each one tell why this hymn is his favorite. Some may be able to give incidents from their lives when these hymns came to bat in a spiritual crisis. You might also have a narrator—someone in the background—read the stories behind these favorite hymns. Here a string ensemble, a good quartet, a girls' trio, or even a piano can add much to the success of the program.

Or you might invite many of the old times of



(Left to right) Miss Dora Brackin, the Rev. Annie R. Campbell, Mrs. J. M. Gager, Miss Mildred Widbur, the Rev. John Pickens, and the Rev. Earl Hand. (Photo by Jettie Logan, also present.)

your church to take turns telling about young peoples' meetings held long ago. The unusual happenings, hardships, romantic moments and spiritual victories of days gone by are sure to provide a bounteous program and also will bring these two groups into closer fellowship. There are many more such ideas that I will be very happy to give you if you will write me or see me about them. I have found in working with young people that variety is the thing they like. This is good in all church life, for that matter.

Plan your work and work your plan. This could be a good motto for your church. We in the Southeast are building and working hard toward a great future. Now is the time to get busy planning in the local church. Hold several planning meetings—perhaps meet for supper together, a worship service, then separate groups working on various parts of the year's program and finally an assembly for reports. Make sure that your officers have books and other materials on hand. **DON'T LEAVE ANYTHING TO CHANCE.** Keep careful records and get all possible publicity on all plans.

Let us all remember that we are not alone; we are a part of a vast company of young people bound by a common purpose and program. Our churches are united and we in the Southeast are pulling together for Christ and His church. Let's all remember too that your committee on Christian Education and Youth Work can do just what you will let it do for this Convention.

A certain young lady was asked about boys—what did she do when they wanted to kiss her? She replied, "If I like them I let them; if I love them I help them." Friends, I sure hope you like this committee. We are trying to help you with your problems for they are our problems too. We want to **WORK TOGETHER.** May God bless you all richly as you pray and help us have the best year in the Southeast Convention ever.

Church News

Wadley Congregational Christian Church looks forward to a second good year under the leadership of the Rev. A. R. Van Cleave. At a recent business meeting of the church, a budget of \$1,275 for the year was adopted, including \$835 for home church expense and \$440 for outreach.

With an increased number of Congregational Christians among students and staff at Southern Union, continued mutual support between Church and College is anticipated. In cooperation with the Student Christian Association, a series of outstanding Sunday evening programs is being planned for the second Sundays of each month.

—David Eddy

The Laymen's Association of the United Church, Phenix City, elected the following new officers for the coming fiscal year: J. N. Rumph, President; Philip Boss, Vice president; Eugene Blanton, Secretary; and W. K. Powers, Treasurer.

On Sunday evening, Oct. 4, the Rev. Lowell A. Smoot directed an Installation Service for the above-named officers. This was a most impressive candlelight service. Candles were also lighted by each officer as he pledged to serve to the best of his ability all duties to further the work of the Laymen's Association in the church.

The men are continuing their great contribution in donating labor in the building of our new Sunday School building. They are now laboring to get the concrete floor completed in time for use of our Harvest Festival to be held this month.

—Paralee Hill, Reporter

The new minister of the **Demorest Federated Church**, the Rev. George Chambers, has called on practically every family in Demorest and has made many friends. He is a native of Georgia, graduate of Emory Theological Seminary, and has had pastorates at Methodist churches in North Georgia before coming to Demorest.

The church is going forward under his leadership, and five members have been received by letter. A Youth Fellowship has been organized.

The Guild of the Demorest Federated Church sent to India for articles made at sisal fiber industries carried on by missionaries. These sold readily, helping India and also our own treasury.

The Guild and the W.S.C.S. of our church plan to have joint meetings for mission study on two evenings in November.

The annual Bean Supper was held at the Percy home and as always was a success financially and socially. The new members of the faculty and their families and the Congregational Christian students were guests at the supper.

—Mrs. E. W. Butler, reporter

The Alexander City Hunt Memorial Church is proud to announce that the Rev. M. O. Worley has come to be our pastor. He and his family moved into the newly decorated parsonage the middle of October.

The young people met at the church on Saturday afternoon, Oct. 10 and went to the airport

for a party—the winning “greens” being entertained by the losers in the contest.

The adults of the church enjoyed a party on the night of Oct. 17.

The church held an election of officers as follows: For three year term as Deacon, Clydis Pemberton; Trustee, Mr. Allen; Supt. of Sunday School, Mr. Allen; Clerk, Mr. Alford; Treasurer, Mrs. Alford; Pianist, Shirley Blair; Assistant pianist, Nara Carley.

The Missionary Society will meet later this month for election of officers, to be announced next month.

—Mrs. James Cumbee, reporter

We are glad to report that the **Highway Church** is progressing under the leadership of the Rev. A. C. Nelson, after being without a pastor for about three months.

The Rev. and Mrs. Nelson moved on the field September 22, coming to us from the First Church of Andalusia, Ala. We sincerely welcome them into our midst as our pastor and into the community.

On Sept. 27 we had welcome services at the church for our new pastor and his wife. The Baptist and Methodist churches called off their evening services and joined us in this welcome service. We sincerely appreciated this splendid cooperation of these churches and we know we shall have unity and cooperation among all our community churches in the future, as we have had in the past.

On Sept. 30, after Prayer Services, everyone present surprised the Pastor and his wife with a bountiful pantry shower which was enjoyed by all.

Our Sunday School is making very satisfactory progress also, under the superintendency of Mr. Boyce Fant. Attendance has increased from 33 to 65 in the last month.

We have also reorganized our Men's Fellowship and the Ladies' Missionary Society. Our prayers are that interest shall continue to grow and we can really do God's will in all our worship services, and that each member shall be a living witness for our Savior on all occasions.

Highway Men Fellowship

On July 26 five men met and reorganized the H. M. Gray's Men's Christian Service Club, which had been inactive for some time due to the church being without a pastor. The membership has grown to 17 members.

Since the church was redecorating the parsonage, the men's fellowship took as their first project putting tile on the kitchen floor. This has been completed, and was a very nice job.

At the last meeting, the social committee announced plans for a fish and chicken supper to be held October 24 for members and their wives.

W.M.S. Friendly Service Circle

The Friendly Service Circle of the W.M.S. of Highway Church was organized Sept. 28 with 16 members. This is Circle No. 2 of our W.M.S. Offi-

cers are: Miss Nonnie Looser, President; Mrs. James Weldon, Vice president; Mrs. Homer Gray, Secretary-Treasurer; Mrs. G. F. Patridge, Key Woman; Miss Linda Messer, Corresponding Secretary; Miss Dorothy Price, Social Chairman; and Mrs. Dewey Moore, Flower Chairman.

—Church reporter

The Vanceville Church held its revival meeting the last of August, with the Rev. Charles Bell of Wadley, Ala. as the preacher. There were 12 new members added to the church, 11 by profession of faith and one by letter. Five of these new members are adults and will mean much to the life of the church. The other 7 are young people who will be a vital part of the church for years to come. We are rejoicing over the great spiritual awakening of the church and for these new members whom we believe will mean much to the cause of Christ and His church. We desire the prayers of all who know the Lord, that our church may go forward and accomplish great things in the future.

—Mrs. Betty Sumner, reporter

The Evarts Church is happy to announce that the Rev. Collie Seymour, presently pastor of the Community Church in Valparaiso, Fla., has accepted the call from the Evarts Church and will move to the field next month.

During July and August, Mr. O. L. Keener, Associate Professor of Social Sciences at Berea College, was supply pastor. He made many warm friends in Evarts.

A fine Bible school was held in July. Sunday night services were held and are being continued by the congregation.

Mr. Keener joined the Lois Vincent Society Circle II in giving the walls of the parsonage a fresh coat of paint. The ladies of the cooking group bought the paint, and this group continues to cook for the Evarts Lions Club twice each month as their project.

The Rev. George Strong, Associate Pastor of Union Church at Berea College, filled the pulpit twice recently. The ladies of the church made the Rev. Strong and family at home in the parsonage, preparing food for them.

Twice during September the Rev. Charles Drake, of Berea, filled the pulpit, bringing his family with him once. The Rev. Drake is always welcome at Evarts.

Dr. Larry Gruman, professor of Religious Education at Berea, filled the pulpit Sept. 27.

Other church activities during the late summer include potluck dinners at the church in August and September, the lovely carpet given to the church by the Lois Vincent Circle, and new feather pillows for the parsonage given by the Circle I.

—Mrs. N. B. Smith, reporter

The Oak Grove Church, Chipley, Ga., held its annual church meeting and election of officers in September. Officers were installed the second Sunday in October.

The church sponsored a barbecue at the Elks Club in LaGrange on Oct. 7, netting about \$447. This money was used to put gas heating in the parsonage.

Dr. Shepherd and two laymen attended the Laymen's School of Churchmanship at Wadley. Dr. Shepherd, assisted by Winfred Walters of Langdale, conducted the Seminar on "Duties of Deacons."

The church observed Laymen's Sunday, Oct. 18 with Prof. Richard Drake, of Emory University, as the speaker for the morning services.

The Junior Fellowship is collecting used clothing for one of their mission stations as their service project for the fall. The new advisors elected for the Senior Pilgrim Fellowship are Mrs. Homer Hagler and Mrs. R. H. McGuire. A Hallowe'en Carnival has been planned for Oct. 28.

—Margie McGuire, reporter

Dr. and Mrs. Paul Reynolds, of Chicago, Ill., visited in **Pleasant Hill** Oct. 3-6. Dr. Reynolds preached for the church service on Sunday, and that evening a pot-luck supper at the Community House afforded the congregation an opportunity to get acquainted with Dr. and Mrs. Reynolds prior to their coming on the field next March.

Foster Parks preached his last sermon Sept. 27 at the Pleasant Hill Community Church. A farewell gift was presented to him by the Moderator, T. L. Cunningham. Mr. Parks will be missed greatly by all, especially the young folks who have looked forward to his weekends with them. Mr. Parks is doing graduate work and assistant teaching at the University of Tennessee this school year. Our best wishes go with him.

The October meeting of the church Women's Fellowship was held in Pioneer Hall Oct. 1, with a program on Finances conducted by Mrs. T. L. Cunningham and Miss Miriam Heermans. The hostesses were Mrs. Wm. Boyce and Mrs. A. H. Smith.

—Mrs. A. H. Smith, reporter

The Lanett Church has just completed one of the best years in church history. Things are shaping up for some fine work in the future. In the election of our church officers and teachers special effort has been made to bring as many of our members as possible into a place of responsibility—particularly our younger married people.

Correction please! The Lanett Church has purchased a parsonage from the West Point Manufacturing Co. In the last issue of the **Southeast News** it was stated we sold the parsonage to the West Point Manufacturing Co.

The purchase of an organ for the sanctuary in our new church has been voted our project in the Missionary Auxiliary. This is a big undertaking but we feel confident we can do it under the capable leadership of our new Auxiliary officers: Mrs. Frank Moon, President; Mrs. Howard Looser, vice President; Mrs. Arthur Dailey, Secretary; Mrs. Terrell Dobson, Treasurer; Mrs. Lena Stephens, Key Woman; Mrs. Jack Harmon and Mrs. J. J. Seymour, Friendly Service; Mrs. Frank Hatcher and Mrs. Vester Dobson, Social Committee; and Mrs. Cooper Cannon, Reporter. Our leaders for the circles are: Mrs. H. Paul Bearird, Mrs. Dobbs Stodghill, Miss Kate Hill, Mrs. Render Fuller, Mrs. Gladys Carlisle and Mrs. A. D. Harry.

Our ladies are participating in the World Com-

munity Day service which is being held at the Community Chapel Church of God on the evening of Nov. 6. Cooperating in our council of churches here are The Disciples of Christ, Methodist, Community Chapel Church of God and the Congregational Christian. Each fellowship has a part on the program which promises to be a most effective one.

Special attention is directed to our Pilgrim Fellowship for the coming year. We have elected a general superintendent to supervise our activities and leaders. We will have graded departments, from kindergarten through high school, with general assembly for our opening devotions and dividing for our discussion groups. Our general superintendent is Mrs. Joe A. French with the following serving as leaders: Mrs. Fred Lashley, Mrs. John Dollar, Jr., Mrs. Charlie Miller, Mrs. A. D. Harry, Mrs. Lee Thompson, Mrs. Vester Dobson, Mrs. J. P. Hamby, Mrs. Garland Yates, Mrs. Julius Hill and Mrs. Lena Stephens.

Fourteen of our men attended the School of Churchmanship held at Southern Union College on Oct. 11. The school was enthusiastically received and proved most beneficial. New officers for our Laymen's Fellowship for the coming year are: W. O. McGill, President; J. J. Seymour, Vice president; Arthur Dailey, Secretary Treasurer.

—Mrs. A. D. Harry, reporter

The **Blackwood Church** of the Headland Parish, served by the Rev. S. M. Penn, announces that Miss Dora Brackin and her committee have begun plans for raising the church pledge to the CBLF. And when Miss Brackin gets behind any campaign, it is usually most successful.

On Oct. 11 the pastor received and Christened three babies and one three year old boy. One came from the Methodist family and the other three were of our own constituency. We anticipate two more Christenings soon.

The Pilgrim Fellowship continues to meet each Wednesday evening and at present is studying "What we Believe" and the Christian doctrines.

The Women's Missionary Society meets once each month and continues its worthy projects.

During the summer each of the three churches of the Headland Parish held preaching missions. **Christian Hill** services began the first Sunday in July and continue through Friday evening, with the Freewill Baptists, Methodists, and the Missionary Baptists helping us with their presence and cooperation.

The New Hope Church at Clio held its services the following week with the pastor, Mr. Penn, as evangelist. Attendance was good, with cooperation from the other churches, especially the Presbyterians in Clio. A young man of the community who is a ministerial student at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Va., helped the pastor by preaching two evenings. Two young people were received on Confession.

Services at the **Blackwood Church** were conducted during the fourth week in July, with the Rev. Chas. W. Bell as visiting evangelist. As Mr. Bell had been here as pastor for three years and won many friends in other denominations and the surrounding communities, we had a record crowd

at each service, day and evening. We received six additions on Confession.

—S. M. Penn, pastor

On Laymen's Sunday, Oct. 18, the laymen of the **East Tallassee Liberty Church** taught all Sunday School classes, provided the speaker, and took charge of the worship service. Mr. Herman Cook, Convention President of the Laymen's Fellowship, spoke at both morning and evening services.

The Women's Fellowship held its regular monthly meeting at the church Oct. 12, with Mrs. Murray Baker presiding. The women voted to bring wrapped gifts to the next meeting to be used as gifts and prizes for veterans in hospitals. These gifts go through the Red Cross. The organization also is piecing a quilt to give to the Council of Church Women for their World Community Day project.

Mrs. Wilma Pemberton was in charge of the worship services, and presented a skit, "Our Fellowship Purpose," with the theme "to create the spirit of Christ in our own hearts, in our homes and in the community and around the world." Those taking part in the skit were: Mrs. Gene Schnell, Mrs. Morrell Rhodes and Mrs. Clifton Fralic.

The Sunday School attendance prize was awarded to Mary Ann Pemberton's class with a percentage of 93%.

The Adult Class has begun a contest to create better attendance and more study. They divided into two groups, the Blue and the Gold. A point is given for each person who attends for the side which asked him to come, another point is given for bringing the Sunday School book back to the church, another for studying the lesson and another for staying for the morning services. The first Sunday attendance was increased by 40%. The second Sunday of the contest attendance was up around 80% of the regular attendance.

—Mrs. Floyd Ballard, reporter

The First Church, Memphis, Tenn., reports six additions to the church roll in October—Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Adams, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Mitter, and Dr. and Mrs. R. B. Wyse.

Chaplain Karl F. Eaheart is home from Korea and has been invited to preach at the church.

Dr. Marshall Wingfield has been elected director of the Memphis Council of Social Workers, of which he was president in 1945.

The **Circular Church** of Charleston, S. C., under the leadership of the Rev. Archie Burns Bedford, is rapidly approaching its goal of 200 members by the end of the church year. When Mr. Bedford first became pastor, the resident membership was listed as 66.

The City Work Department of the Board of Home Missions has raised the appropriation to Circular Church from \$1600 to \$2000, of which the Southeast Convention will provide \$400 from its budget. The church expects to come to full self-support within two years.

During the summer months the interior of the church was redecorated, and a re-dedication service was held Sept. 6.

Institutes at Antioch Church

During the month of November, the Antioch Church of Roanoke, Ala., will have a series of meetings on each Tuesday night. This will be an educational institute for church members on the following topics:

Nov. 3 - "Church Architecture" with the Rev. Joe A. French; Nov. 10 - "Stewardship," with the Rev. C. Carl Dollar; Nov. 17 - "Visitation Evangelism," with Dr. David W. Shepherd; and Nov. 24 - "Church Organization," with Supt. Erston M. Butterfield.

These institutes were arranged by the pastor, the Rev. Charles W. Bell, with the anticipation that ministers with special ability in these fields of church activity can be of great help to the individual church program.

Vanceville Junior Pilgrim Fellowship

Along in July the Junior Pilgrim Fellowship of the Vanceville Church adopted as their project the selling of subscriptions to the **Southeast News**. This was to be their contribution to the larger fellowship.

To date they have sent in eight subscriptions and two renewals, and the new subscriptions include a gift subscription for six months to Denson Wood, former president of the Vanceville Youth Fellowship, who has entered college at Oxford, Ga. The young people of the church decided to give him the subscription to the magazine so that he could keep in touch with them and their church.

Much of the success of this fine group has been due to the interest and consecration of Mrs. Rosie Hand of Tifton. The Junior Pilgrim Fellowship was organized last June for boys and girls from seven to eleven years with Sandra Carpenter as President and Ruthie Jane Davis as Secretary and eleven members.

Pictured below are: L to R, front row: Anne McKuhen, Virginia McKuhen, Doris Allen, Sherry Lastinger; back row: Joyce Hollis, Sandra Carpenter, Johnnie Abbott, Jack Abbott, Joel Carpenter, Don Hollis, Mary Ann Cooper, and Bettye Ruth Cooper. They are wearing their Choir Capes.



South Alabama-Northwest Florida Association Meeting

The South Alabama-Northwest Florida Association met at the Blackwood Church, Headland, Ala., Aug. 21-22. The Rev. Collie Seymour of Valparaiso served as Moderator.

Principal speakers for the meeting included the Rev. S. M. Penn, host pastor, the Rev. C. Carl Dollar, President Clyde C. Flannery of Southern Union College, the Rev. A. C. Nelson, Mrs. Lowell A. Smoot, Y. M. Kelly, and the Moderator. Song services were led by A. T. Brackin and Arthur Wallace.

A new constitution was adopted which will correlate the work of the association and the Southeast Convention.

New officers were elected as follows: Moderator, Rev. Collie Seymour; Assistant Moderator, James Bell; Scribe and Treasurer, Mrs. Bob Gantt; Member-at-large to serve on the Board of Directors, Albert Baisdan.

The Rev. N. A. Long was elected as delegate to the General Council, and members were elected to the various committees as follows: (the first named is chairman) Credentials Committee, Rev. S. M. Penn, Alfred Adams, and Rev. N. A. Long; Evangelism, Worship and Fellowship Committee, A. C. Nelson, James Bell, and Neil Long; Religious Education and Youth Work Committee, Miss Dora Brackin, Pete Sourtney, and Arthur Wallace; Missions and Stewardship Committee, Claude Steward, Maurice Rister, and Mrs. Marguerite Chandler.

The theme of the association meeting was "We Would Be Building" followed by all speakers. The Rev. Penn's topic was "Building the Kingdom Through the Church School" and his main points were that the Kingdom of God begins in the individual heart; a child's home training determines his character; and the church and its work should be made attractive to all its members, especially the children.

"Building the Kingdom Through the Southeast Convention" was the topic of the Rev. C. Carl Dollar, Director of the Christian Rural Extension Service and associate Superintendent.

Arthur Wallace reported on the Church Building Loan Fund campaign, and stated that all but five churches in the association had sent in their Declarations of Purpose.

The Rev. Clyde Flannery gave a very inspiring talk on World Crisis, to which the obvious answer is Christian Leadership and the development of foreign countries.

"Building the Kingdom Through the Program of the Local Church" was the topic of the Rev. A. C. Nelson, who gave a very interesting talk. It was decided to give the Executive Board of the Association the authority to set a permanent date for future association meetings, the date to be worked out in cooperation with the other associations of the state to avoid conflicts in dates.

The meeting closed with the sermon, delivered to Moderator Seymour, "Building the Kingdom by Building Better People," on the text: "Desire earnestly the higher gifts."

Women's Fellowship

(From page 2)

In stating techniques of organization, Mrs. Hemingway said it was first important to answer these questions: "Why the church?" and "Why is it important to have women's organizations?" In organizing the important thing to remember is that the people are members of the wider fellowship. The best way to get this across is to use the Manual of the Women's Fellowship, which deals with every area of women's work.

As aids for the promotion of women's work, Mrs. Hemingway suggested **Advance Magazine**, Guidepost, "Facts from the Field" (5 copies available without charge) and audio-visual aids.

She also presented a list of standards for the local president (paraphrased): The local president should: 1) Have a working knowledge of parliamentary procedure as found in the Manual of Women's Fellowship, 2) Know her organization thoroughly, 3) Be well acquainted with materials and helps available in all areas of church work, 4) Be loyal to the total church program, 5) Be enthusiastic in relation to the local group and church, 6) Have vision for the future, and 7) Be friendly, loyal, sincere—in a word, Christian.

Tentative plans were made for the women's fellowship meeting during the Convention Meeting next May in Lanett, Ala. The group suggested that two hours be allocated for their group meeting and also a luncheon meeting together with a speaker, giving first, second and third choice.

A tentative schedule was set up for Miss Marguerite Bicknell, who is to be in the area the latter part of December and through January. Miss Bicknell has been working in Greece, and is available to speak to women's groups. It was decided that she should be invited to meet with the Chattanooga women during her visit in Tenn. in December, with the North Alabama women Jan. 2-6,



(Left to right) Mrs. John Fralic, Mrs. Peter Doherty, Mrs. Lowell Smoot, Mrs. Ellis Hemingway, the Rev. Annie Campbell, Mrs. D. W. Shepherd, Mrs. H. Y. Sears, Mrs. Arnold Slater.

with Central and East Alabama women Jan. 8-10, with South Alabama women Jan. 12-13, with the South Georgia women Jan. 15-16, and with the women of Central Georgia Jan. 17-20. Plans are to have several churches meeting together in the evening for a supper meeting, with an offering to help defray expenses.

Superintendent's Page

(From page 5)

has been broadcasting for one year. Every Sunday they have one-half hour from two-thirty 'til three. The Rev. Barner and his people call their program "The Call of the Cross" and have been receiving favorable comments from all over the listening area. Fort Valley also has a slogan, "Let's talk about the Church." Maybe that accounts for people knowing about the good work they are doing. Remember when we entered Fort Valley and had to ask directions, the first person we asked knew right where the Congregational Christian Church was—and that's something!

After being closed for 30 years, this church was reorganized in 1945 and now it is making rapid progress under the leadership of the Rev. and Mrs. Barner and the good folks of the congregation. Thirty new members last year, redecorated church, increased average attendance, from 12 a year ago to 40 now (tonight there are 65 present) and of course a building program in the planning!

After another wonderful service we head home, tired but strangely satisfied and happy.

Over 300 years ago our spiritual forefathers gathered to give thanks that their Pilgrim Colony had survived the rugged New England winter and the harvest would be sufficient to see them through another one. As we prepare for our Thanksgiving in this year of our Lord 1953 let's not forget to thank God for the wonderful things that are happening among our churches of the Southeast Convention. We have witnessed a glorious vision and have set our hands to a great task. May God



REV. & MRS. FRANK C. BARNER

Meditations From Ministers

By Allyn K. Wadleigh

"... Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?" Luke 24:32. (13-35)

Burning Hearts

Let us follow the disciples as they leave Jerusalem. The city that had always been a joy to them has become the source of their sorrow. The old prophecies, that they had hoped were about to be fulfilled, now left them in despair. With heavy hearts they are turning their backs upon the scenes of these sorrows. Then the mysterious Stranger draws near, and warms their hearts till all aglow they see a new book, and the lost cause becomes the fulfilling of the scriptures. It was the burning heart that enabled them to read the open book.

To many of us the Bible is a sealed book. We give it an honored place in the home, we advocate its teaching in the Sunday School and we have a profound respect for it—but it is a closed book. We have heard of its wonderful power over the lives of men, its balm for life's ills, that it is a trustworthy chart on life's seas, and yet we go along poor in spirit, sick with frustration, groping our tortured way in the darkness.

The Bible is a sealed book because it is neglected. We are so newspaper-ridden that we don't want to read anything that takes a little time and thought. If we read the Bible at all, it is generally at a most inopportune time. And consider our manner of reading the Bible. We try to know what it says, but do not stop to ask ourselves what it means. We are so absorbed with rules to read it through that we have forgotten that what we need is a new spirit in our reading. For, naturally, rules should never be equated with motives.

Again, we approach the Bible with mistaken conceptions. All the hue and cry over the Revised Standard Version is a case in point. We look for the Bible to give what it has never intended to give. We forget the fact that it is history, prophecy, poetry, and parable. It is not so much the object of our faith as it is an aid to faith.

The Bible was born in life. It is a record of a Divine-human encounter, a record of what God did in the lives of men. It deals mostly with deeds and not words; it deals with realities and not abstractions. What God intended to teach He manifested in living history. That is what the Bible is: a record of living history.

God's revelation is not so much in the writing as it is in the events it records. The Word of the Lord was a living communication to men: not the Gospels alone, but the Christ of the Gospels. It is

grant to us the dedication, wisdom, and strength to see it through. Amen.

Erston M. Butterfield

He in the Book who gives value to it. If God is to reveal Himself to human character He must do so by means of human character. Hence James came and lived in the world. Thus this Book was born into human life. These men spoke and wrote because they had burning hearts.

The Bible belongs to men who move out in the world's strong currents. No theorist has ever been able to understand it, because it is not the product of mere theory. The Bible can only be understood by people of action, because it is the product of action. Give us a Bible and we commit to memory all the passages pertaining to salvation, but that doesn't mean that we are "saved." We must read the Bible with our hearts as well as our eyes. When we read the Scriptures we ought to find it sweeping the keyboard of our whole being. You and I know that as life advances in years, expands, grows deeper and richer, this old Book unfolds itself more to us and becomes the open book.

And the more we know of Jesus Christ and the closer we live to Him, the better we understand the Book. They go hand in hand, supplementing each other.

This month many of the people in our churches will take part in Worldwide Bible Reading. This, as you know, is a month of nation-wide emphasis on the Bible. It runs from Thanksgiving to Christmas. The program is aimed at encouraging wider use of the Bible as a source of inspiration and self-help. On December 13 we shall celebrate Universal Bible Sunday—the high point of the Worldwide Bible Reading program. Universal Bible Sunday will be observed in thousands of churches of every denomination throughout the land. Pray God that all of us may approach the Bible with burning hearts.

—o—

The Word of Hope

Our Father, for our learning
Aforetime Thou didst plan
Through comfort of the Scriptures
To bring good hope to man.
Whatever things were written
By prophet, priest, or king,
Infilled by thine own Spirit,
Our souls to thee would bring.

We thank Thee that these Scriptures
Hold strength for every need
And testify of Jesus
Who is thy Word indeed.
When baffled by life's mystery,
When sinking in despair,
We turn to Him for guidance
And breathe His Name in prayer.

—Wilhelmina D.A. Stephens.



THE REV. M. L. THRASHER

Obituary

The Reverend Marion L. Thrasher died Monday morning, Oct. 19, in Steppville, Ala., at the age of sixty-eight. He is survived by his wife, five sons, three daughters, ten grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was held at Mountain Grove Church, Steppville, Ala., Tuesday afternoon and the Rev. Thrasher was buried in the cemetery there. The Rev. J. P. Bean from Lineville, Ala., gave the message of eulogy, and the Rev. Guy L. Colbert, pastor of the Mountain Grove Church, assisted.

The Rev. Thrasher has served in the ministry since 1915—thirty-eight years. He had been ill for almost a year, but continued to serve his church in Alexander City, Hunt Memorial, until recently, preaching his last sermon there July 12th. Mr. Thrasher had been pastor of the church for the past four years.

After his resignation, Mr. Thrasher and his wife and daughter retired to a newly bought home in Steppville, near his daughter, Mrs. H. L. Terry.

Mr. Thrasher was ordained in 1917, and was a member of the East Alabama Association and the Alabama Conference.

Remember!

To Renew
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Convention Activities Calendar

- Nov. 1 - Reformation Sunday - Religion in American Life Month
- Nov. 6 - Finance Committee of Board of Directors meeting in Atlanta, 10:30 A.M.
- Nov. 6 - World Community Day
- Nov. 9 - Atlanta Seminary Foundation Trustees meet in Atlanta, 10:00 A.M.
- Nov. 10 - Board of Directors' meeting, Atlanta
- Nov. 11 - Armistice Day
- Nov. 17 - Race Relations Meeting with Rev. Galen Weaver, Atlanta.
- Nov. 22 - Thanksgiving Sunday
- Nov. 23 - Committee on Ministry meeting at Southern Union College, 10:30 A.M.
- Nov. 24 - Finance Committee meeting with Dr. Thos. A. Tripp, Atlanta, 10:00 A.M.
- Nov. 29 - Stewardship Sunday, First Sunday in Advent

The Meaning of Advent

Just as it was the purpose of Lent to prepare Christians worthily to celebrate Easter, so Advent was designed to help them properly to keep Christmas. In the paintings of the old masters, no scene is more familiar than the kneeling of adoring figures before the Infant Jesus. We need the repetition of such a scene, when Christmas comes, in our modern world. Advent is designed to bring us up to Christmas on our knees. Only by the keeping of a true Advent can we know the meaning of a true Christmas.

Raymond Calkins

Patriotism should be an integral part of our every feeling at all times, for it is merely another name for those qualities of soul which make a man, by day or by night, think of his duty to his fellows and his duty to the nation, through which their, and his, loftiest aspirations must find their fitting expression.—Theodore Roosevelt.